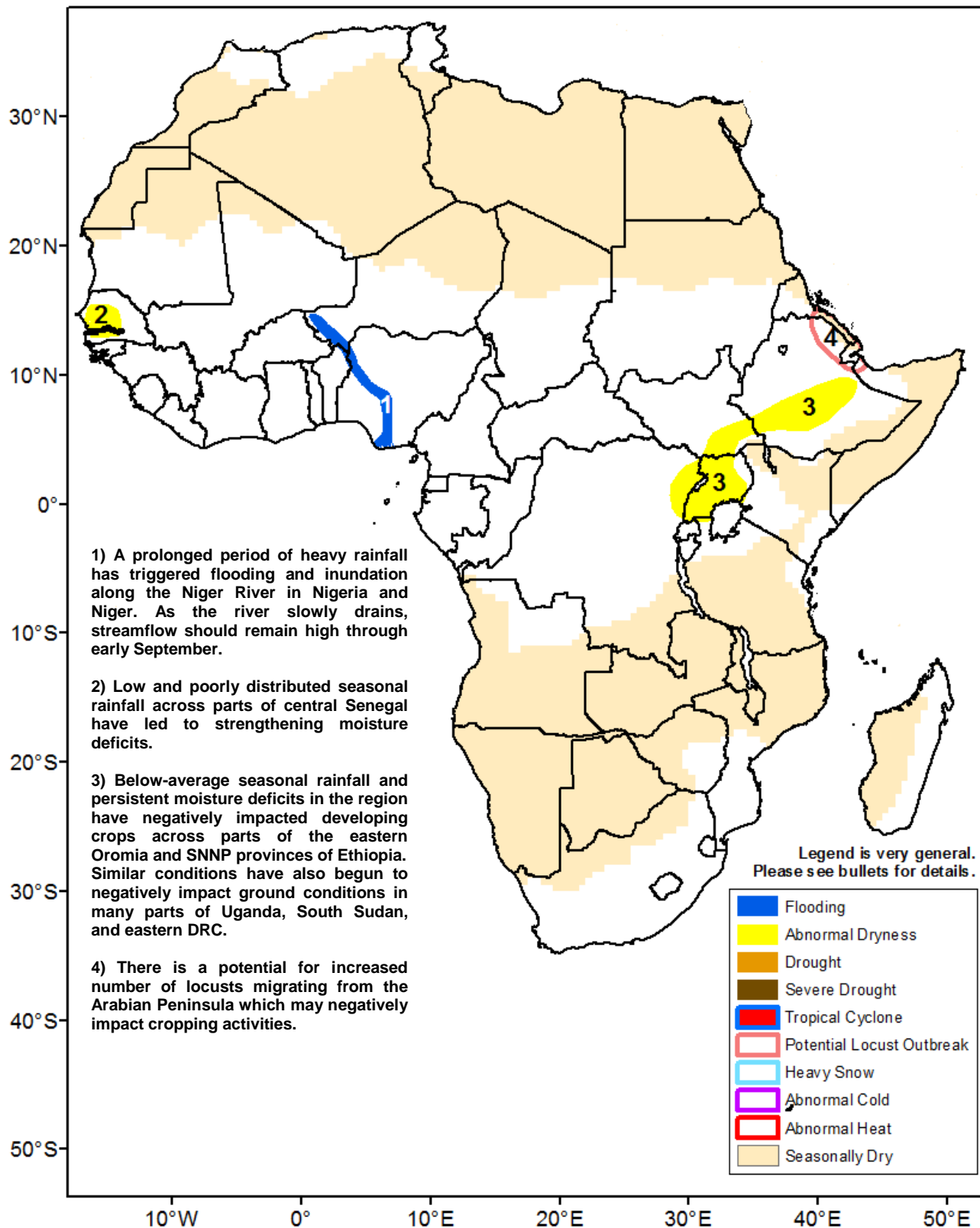




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 15 – September 21, 2016

- Abnormal dryness slowly expands in scope within East Africa amid persistent rainfall deficits.
- Heavy seasonal rains continue to elevate river levels along the Niger River in Nigeria.



Very heavy rainfall has been observed in Guinea and Sierra Leone this past week.

During the last week, the northern boundary of the rains has shifted southward in concurrence with the seasonal migration of the ITF. Large amounts of rain were observed this past week throughout most of Guinea and Sierra Leone. According to satellite rainfall estimates, accumulations greater than 200mm were received in some spots (Figure 1). Elsewhere, heavy rains were observed in parts southern Senegal, southeastern Mali, and Niger. Only light rains were received in southern portions of Liberia, and Cote D'Ivoire. Rains diminished significantly compared to the previous week throughout Nigeria

Despite having less widespread heavy precipitation than earlier in the season, the last 30-day period nonetheless remains wetter than normal for a large part of West Africa (Figure 2). The only areas currently exhibiting significant rainfall deficits are Senegal, The Gambia, southern Liberia and north-central Nigeria. Moisture deficits have been most persistent in central Senegal and the Gambia, but even so rains have been relatively frequent there. As a result, cropping activities have not appeared to be greatly affected. In Nigeria and Niger, heavy rainfall since late July continues to cause inundation along the Niger River. Vegetation Indices indicate normal to better-than-normal vegetation conditions across the region with the exception of southern Senegal.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest that the monsoon circulation will shift further south. Heavy shower activity is expected at the beginning of the period over portions of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote D'Ivoire. A return to wetter conditions is likely for north-central Nigeria.

Dryness is slowly expanding in coverage around Uganda into areas of eastern DRC.

The largest precipitation totals this past week were limited to northern and western Ethiopia. Greater than 100mm were observed in some of these local areas. Most of Sudan also received near to above normal rainfall last week. In contrast, parts of East Africa to the south and east continued to receive suppressed rainfall. The persistence of this pattern since August has continued to slowly strengthen negative rainfall anomalies, affecting portions of southern Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, and Uganda (Figure 3). Significant deficits have now expanded into eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Comparison with remotely sensed vegetation health indices corroborates a shortage of available ground moisture, as conditions have been declining over the past few weeks. Much of the dryness has been associated with periods of little to no rainfall (dry spells) originating in July and August.

For the upcoming outlook period, rains are expected to shift southward across the region. Enhanced precipitation is expected over western Ethiopia and parts of the DRC. Suppressed and very modest precipitation is expected in Sudan. Moderate rains may also expand into western Kenya.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

